

N. B. VARS' GIFTS TO WESTERLY

Collection of Daguerreotypes and Saunders Genealogy Presented Library—Thomas Leonette in Jail—Contract For Mail Transfer Goes to Amos Burdick—Funeral of John Congdon.

There is a group of daguerreotypes in the reading room of the Westerly public library, taken over half a century ago by Nelson E. Vars, who died in 1892. The collection consists of 125 daguerreotypes, which were presented to the Memorial and Library association a few years since by Mr. Vars.

The group is made up of East Greenwich, R. I., a superior of the seven churches of the Str. Principle Baptist denomination in Rhode Island, taken in 1850; Deacon William Stillman, taken in 1852, at the age of 91; Elder Daniel C. Coon, Seventh-day Baptist, Hopkinton, taken in 1859; Elder John Greene, Seventh-day Baptist, Hopkinton, taken in 1859; Elder Stanton Austin, taken in 1859; Rev. Alfred E. Burdick, Seventh-day Baptist, taken in 1859; Elder Hope Valley, R. I., taken in 1859; Elder Slocum, Baptist, Exeter, R. I., taken in 1861; Elder Fenner Jacques, Baptist, Exeter, R. I., taken in 1861; Elder Benjamin P. Cotterill, Baptist, Scituate, taken in 1860; Elder Taylor, long a resident of Westerly, taken in 1852; Elder Henry Jacques, Baptist, Exeter, taken in 1861. The daguerreotypes are in excellent preservation and as clear in every detail as when finished by Mr. Vars.

The Memorial and Library association recently secured the only genealogy of the Tobias Saunders family, compiled and written by Mr. Vars. It is in two volumes of 426 pages each and in Mr. Vars' own handwriting and has never been published. The work has photographic illustrations of the author, the Stephen Saunders homestead, the Tobias and later the Edward homestead, the Captain Arnold Saunders homestead, the Tobias Saunders, 2d, homestead, Augustus Saunders, Jr., and wife, Dr. Augustus Lewis Saunders, Dr. Rowell Thomas, Caroline Saunders-Tappan, Dr. James M. Saunders, Dr. Artemas Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bess, Isaac V. Say, Mrs. Julia Saunders Hall, Sophia White Saunders-Grandall-Stevens and Captain Oliver P. Saunders. The title page reads:

"Records of Tobias Saunders and His Descendants, with List of the Saunders Family from the year 1710, as compiled and written by Nelson E. Vars, 1880-1901-2."

The frontispiece is the old Saunders

homestead, photographed by N. B. Vars Feb. 22, 1874. The homestead is in Westerly. The house is one story high, with gambrel roof, size 25 by 32 feet. The west half was built in 1754 and the east part in 1763. The introductory of the valuable records, which represents about a quarter century of research and the expenditure of several thousand dollars, reads as follows:

"This work is devoted to the genealogical and biographical history of Tobias Saunders and his descendants, Tobias being one of the first white settlers in Misquamicut (Westerly) in 1661. I am a direct descendant in the seventh generation of Tobias through the line of his son Edward, consequently have a deep personal interest in acquiring as full and correct history of the family as was possible to procure. I have pursued the work with unyielding devotion much of the time for the last 23 years and yet, at 91, all my labors, I have to regret my inability to procure full records of many of the family.

"Many moved away to distant places, leaving but scant records behind them, and it has been very difficult to follow them and get full records. Yet I have succeeded in tracing the better than could have been done had I waited some years later before beginning the search. The deaths and changes that have occurred from 1800 leaves it now impossible to get what I did before 1900. Between 1775 and 1825 there were many moves from Rhode Island to the west, and many died in Rhode Island that left but little or no family records. So it is impossible to trace all of them, and now the descendants are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific and beyond.

"I find in the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783, the names of nearly every man of the family of suitable age, was engaged in some capacity in the war, as officers or privates.

"I have searched the Rhode Island and other colonial records and given a list of them in this work. Also will be found records of the Hilsco family, as they are closely connected with the Saunders family. I have been able to trace the Edward and the Stephen lines (the two largest of the family) better than the John and the Benjamin lines. Of the daughters of Tobias, the records are not extensive.

"NELSON E. VARS.

East Greenwich, R. I., October, 1902.

The books are closely indexed. Mr. Vars had also compiled the records of the Vars family in ten similar volumes which have never been published.

Deputy Sheriff Mitchell, acting upon execution given him for service, in the case of Thomas Leonette against Angelo Comporto, took the defendant into custody. Some time ago Leonette's fingers were bitten and put out of shape and is of very little use. Civil suit in damages was brought in the superior court and Judge Stearns awarded damages of \$250 and execution was issued to recover. Sheriff Mitchell could find no real or personal property upon which to levy and was therefore required to take Comporto into custody. Leonette agreed to withdraw his rights to damages provided Comporto would pay the costs, which probably meant attorney fees, but Comporto said he could not pay as he had no money, all his earnings being devoted to the support of his wife and five children.

Therefore Sheriff Mitchell was obliged to commit Comporto to the jail at Kingston. During his incarceration his family will be without his support and Leonette will be required to pay for the board of Comporto. He was compelled to remain in jail for as his board is paid by the plaintiff or until such time as his release can be obtained by legal process. It is probable that the expiration of the time limit, if the case is not otherwise disposed of, Comporto will be permitted to take the poor debtor's oath and be released from jail.

The permanent contract for the transfer of mails from the Westerly railway station and the post office has been awarded to Amos Burdick, the lowest bidder. His bid of \$720 has been accepted and he will begin the service April 1. In the bids for temporary service from March 1 to April 1 Theodore Picard's bid was the lowest and it was supposed he would be awarded the permanent contract, but the post office decided to accept Mr. Burdick's bid. The service given by Mr. Picard during the month has been very satisfactory and is praised by Postmaster Butler and his working force.

John Lynch, who has attended to the transfer of mails for several years, as an employee of the late James A. Wilcox and of Arthur W. Swan, his successor, when the transfer devolved upon the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company, has declined an offer from Mr. Burdick to enter his employ and attend to the transfer service.

Mr. Lynch has the acquaintance of all commercial travelers coming to Westerly and is engaged by them in the transfer of their sample trunks, which is quite a business in itself. In making the low bid, Mr. Burdick took it for granted that he could secure the service of Mr. Lynch and with it the business of the commercial travelers, hence the low bid for the transfer of mails. Mr. Lynch said his employer had always treated him fairly and that he did not propose to injure his business for the sake of a few extra dollars in salary.

Local Laconics.

Frederick N. Freeman of New London was in Westerly Friday.

Herbert Edwards has enlisted in the navy as a second class machinist.

Plans are in the works for the formation of another social club in Westerly.

Mrs. Alexander Waite and daughter of New London visited in Westerly Friday.

Friday bordered on the springlike and the benches in Wilcox park were occupied.

A delegation of Westerly Elks will accompany New London lodge to Wilmantic next Monday night.

There's to be a cooking man in this section and cocks of pure pit pedigree are being trained for the event.

It will not be many days before Charles Coon, superintendent of Wilcox park, will marshal his full working force and make the park one of the most attractive beauty places in the state.

Mrs. Annie Legate of Providence has announced the engagement of her daughter, Alice Mabel, to Irving Lewis Coe of Providence. Miss Legate is a graduate of the Westerly High school and the State Normal school and is a teacher in Providence schools.

The striking stone masons who demand \$27 for six days' work are still on strike and the contractors give no indication of yielding to the demand. In the meantime some important work is being held up and workmen engaged in other building trades are liable to be affected.

Mrs. Perry, wife of Dr. William H. Perry, superintendent of Westerly schools, will entertain during the 1800th hour in the children's department of the Westerly public library this (Sat-

urday) afternoon. Her audience will be composed of pupils of the Quarry Hill and West Broad street schools.

The body of John Congdon, who died in Providence, was brought to Westerly Friday and buried at River Bend. Mr. Congdon was employed for several years at the C. B. Cottrell & Sons company plant and was in charge of the upright drill department. Many of his former shopmates attended the funeral.

The gymnasium classes of the Westerly High school, boys and girls, that have been instructed at the Memorial building gym during the winter, will suspend their indoor exercises with the present week. The boys' classes met twice a week and the girls' classes once a week and each was in charge of competent instructors.

John Gavitt of Westerly, who played in the outfield and on the pitchers' mound for teams in minor baseball leagues in Rhode Island, is trying out for a place on the Pittsfield team of the Eastern association. He was recommended by Peter Clemens and John F. Hill and also by Charles Cline, the local representative in professional baseball.

The eulogies of Congressman George H. Utter of Westerly, delivered in the house at the last session, have been printed in book form and will be ready soon for distribution. Each member of the house is entitled to nine copies but many have assigned their allotment to congressmen. Peter Goelet Gerry, and he will receive about 1,200 copies. Mr. Gerry will furnish a copy to applicants while they last and nearly all of them will be distributed in the Second congressional district.

Colchester.

Supper Followed by Talk by Miss Helen E. Atwood—A. J. Brundage Speaks on Boys' Corn Clubs.

Friday evening of last week about 30 members of the Girls' Wideawake Mission circle and of the Boys' Mission band enjoyed an early supper at the Congregational chapel, having as their guests Miss Helen E. Atwood of Waukegan, a junior secretary of the Eastern Board of Missions, and Miss Clara Gillette of Goshen, a former junior secretary.

An after-supper programme presided over by the president of the Boys' Mission band, William B. Gerhardt, proved most enjoyable.

Following Miss Atwood's interesting response to her introduction, the chairman called for toasts from the following members of the societies: Alden T. Bunyan, Leslie Beebe, Eugene D. Beebe, F. Lawrence Carrier and Miss Jennie V. Hall. Each speech was heartily applauded.

At 7:30 p. m. a talk by Miss A. Atwood was given in the chapel, attended also by older friends, at which many interesting and profitable remarks about town are being thoroughly searched. It is reported that the reward has been raised to \$250.

The Misses Alice, Helen and Kathryn Girouard of Mansville, R. I., were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fulgence A. Garson of Westerly. Several farmers reported having seen robins in the trees about their homes.

Pool Matches.

A pool match was held in George Trealtre's at Ocean Thursday afternoon. The first contest was between Charles Trealtre and Fred Hill, and resulted in a victory for the former by the close score of 99 to 100. The second was between George Trealtre and Fred Massy. Massy won the result being 92 to 100.

Whist and Comedy.

A very successful whist was held in St. Jean's hall Thursday evening, under the auspices of the St. Jean Baptist church. Many tables were set and before the whist a one act French comedy Le Diner Interrompu was presented in an admirable manner. The players showed remarkable skill in the portraying of the different characters. The cast of characters follows:

M. Bincent, the guest, George Lucier, the cook, Odile Arpin, the servant, Desire Arpin, An officer, Severin Pratte, M. Plumas, the host, Alcides Clocher, First, a fruit dish, Exilda Dumais, second, sofa pillow, Arthur Morin, third, box writing paper, Diana Ray, fourth, teapot, Cordelia Duquette; fifth a pipe, George Genereux; sixth, an apron, Mrs. A. Belair; consolation prizes: first, top whistle, Mrs. George LaFrance; second, Mrs. Ely.

Village Interests.

A. E. Ravene and his sister Grace are in Hartford visiting their sister Lydia, who is in a hospital in that city.

Moses Lambert lost a valuable horse Friday morning.

A. G. Pember has sold his farm and moved into one of the company's tenements on Main street.

The Sunshine class of the M. E. church is planning for a supper and entertainment.

PLAINFIELD

Henry Lester continues seriously ill. School closed Friday for the spring vacation. Vaccination and storms have kept the attendance this winter much lower than it would otherwise have been.

B. D. Parkhurst of Sterling visited his mother, Mrs. Susan Parkhurst, Thursday.

Miss Thelma Lynch is spending a week with her grandmother, Mrs. Moffitt, of Wauregan.

Charles Phillips is so much better after his recent severe burns that he directed the loading of a carload of poles to this station Wednesday.

Thursday evening Rev. Father

Wilson as an Amateur.

In some things Woodrow Wilson is such an amateur in politics. For instance, when he appealed to the Tennessee Democrats for harmony—Washington Herald.

At the meeting of the Home A. S. School closed Friday for the week. Other questions, the need of a more modern schoolhouse in town, of having a resident health officer, and the advantages of a room for the public school pupils were discussed.

Charles T. Wilson of Worcester, Mass., was a local visitor Friday.

Mrs. Elta Lombard is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. John Riley, in Hartford.

H. C. Wilcox of New Haven was the guest of friends in town: 1st pas. week.

Donald G. Bigelow has come to New York where he is with the Stenotype company. Mr. Bigelow's stenotype machine, which he uses with much skill, was a novelty in this place and excited much comment and interest.

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